



RESEARCH ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, LTD.

25 February 1985

Mr. Herbert E. Meyers, Vice Chairman  
National Intelligence Council  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Meyers:

For all the members of the Cercle, I write to thank you for your talk on Friday, February 8 at the Sheraton Carlton Hotel. Your presentation was stimulating and provocative of much subsequent discussion. For those who have focused their attention on the external manifestations of Soviet power, a fresh look at the internal problems of the USSR is a needed change of perspective.

Although you showed that the coming decade has become more threatening because of the inherent weaknesses in the Soviet system, that part of your message was, to a degree, missed by several members of the audience. They said their impression was that you implied all we had to do was wait and the whole Soviet system would collapse. I mention this only because I assume you are concerned to reach your audience effectively. I might suggest that with Europeans, you begin by stressing the danger (as you did later on in your talk to us) to the West of a Soviet elite that sees its time running out, the permanently operating factors turning against it.

I write as one much concerned about the future of the Soviet Union, enough to have addressed the Kennan Institute on the question of the transition from a Communist movement state to a Russian empire. Among those who essentially agree with your assessment of current trends, the economist Igor Birman, formerly of Moscow and now resident here, has done some impressive work in calculating the size of Soviet consumer income. If you would like to discuss his ideas, or Russian nationalism, in the future, please let me know.

Yours cordially,

  
Donald F. B. Jameson

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